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Twenty-ninth session
11-14 February 1997
Agenda item 17

REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON ITS TWENTY-NINTH SESSION

Draft report

Addendum

Rapporteur: G. M. CHARUMBIRA (Botswana)

Chapter _____

INDUSTRIAL AND CONSTRUCTION STATISTICS

(Agenda item 7)

1. The Commission considered item 7 of its agenda at the 483rd meeting, on 11 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on the revised international recommendations for construction statistics (E/CN.3/1997/9);

(b) Draft revised international recommendations for construction statistics (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/47/Rev.1).

The Commission heard an oral report of the Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics, presented by the Convener, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development.

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Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission:

(a) Endorsed the work carried out by the Task Force on Industrial and Construction Statistics and agreed that the Task Force had largely accomplished its goals and should therefore be discontinued;

(b) Recommended that the draft revised international recommendations for construction statistics be:

(i) More closely harmonized with the 1993 System of National Accounts (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/2/Rev.4)[1] in terms of, for example, statistical units (enterprises, ancillary units) and valuation (basic prices versus producer prices);

(ii) Published as part of the collection of United Nations manuals.

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[1] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.4.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: G. M. CHARUMBIRA (Botswana)

Chapter _____

INTERNATIONAL TRADE STATISTICS

(Agenda item 8)

1. The Commission considered item 8 of its agenda at the 483rd meeting, on 11 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Task Force on International Trade Statistics (E/CN.3/1997/10, annex);

(b) Report of the Secretary-General on the revised concepts and definitions for international merchandise trade statistics (E/CN.3/1997/11);

(c) Draft revised concepts and definitions for international merchandise trade statistics (PROV/ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/52/Rev.2).

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission:

(a) Decided that the order of priority for carrying out methodological work should be:

(i) A compilers manual;

(ii) A revision of Customs Areas of the World (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/30/Rev.2);[1]

(iii) Technical information on index numbers of international trade statistics;

(b) Encouraged all countries to supply their current international trade statistics to the United Nations Statistics Division in terms either of the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System (HS), if that commodity classification was used by a country, or of whatever commodity classification was in use in the country; and to respond positively to the Statistics Division's request to supply previous years of data in terms of HS, where available, for the purpose of completing the Statistics Division database according to HS;

(c) Welcomed the adoption, by the Harmonized System Committee of the World Customs Organization (WCO), of the draft recommendation that countries should provide to the United Nations Statistics Division their international trade statistics according to the Harmonized Commodity Description and Coding System, and expressed its support for the adoption of that draft recommendation by the Council of WCO;

(d) Decided that the Task Force on International Trade Statistics should continue to function, and address those issues set out in its report (E/CN.3/1997/10) to the Commission and other issues within its established terms of reference;

(e) Adopted the draft revised concepts and definitions for international merchandise trade statistics (PROV/ST/ESA/SER.M/52/Rev.2), subject to the Secretariat's incorporating such editorial and substantive amendments as were consistent with maintaining the structural integrity of the draft text;

(f) Requested the Secretariat to publish and distribute the revised concepts and definitions;

(g) Also requested the Secretariat to work towards further harmonization of the concepts and definitions for international merchandise trade statistics with the 1993 System of National Accounts (ST/ESA/STAT/SER.F/2/Rev.4)[2] and the fifth edition of the Balance of Payments Manual.[3]

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[1] Statistical Papers, No. 30/Rev.2 (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.89.XVII.12).

[2] United Nations publication, Sales No. E.94.XVII.4.

[3] Washington, D.C., International Monetary Fund, 1993.

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Addendum

Rapporteur: G. M. CHARUMBIRA (Botswana)

Chapter _____

INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL CLASSIFICATIONS

(Agenda item 4)

1. The Commission considered item 4 of its agenda at its 483rd meeting, on 11 February 1997. It had before it the following documents:

(a) Report of the Secretary-General on international economic and social classifications (E/CN.3/1997/4);

(b) Report of the Voorburg Group on Service Statistics on the revised Provisional Central Product Classification (E/CN.3/1997/5);

(c) Draft Central Product Classification (Services Part; Sections 5-9) Version 1.0 (PROVISIONAL ST/ESA/STAT/SER.M/77 (Version 1.0) and Corr.1);

The Commission also had before it, as a background paper, "Correspondence tables linking the Provisional Central Product Classification (Provisional CPC) and the Central Product Classification, Version 1.0 (CPC Version 1.0)".

Action taken by the Commission

2. The Commission:

(a) Agreed that the Statistics Division should play a pivotal role in the coordination of economic and social classifications so as to resolve differences and encourage the harmonizing of classifications;

(b) Endorsed the recommendation that the name of the Expert Group on International Classifications be changed to Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, reflecting the decision to recognize a family of international economic and social classifications;

(c) Endorsed the development of a module on basic principles for the implementation and use of international classifications for inclusion in the Common Code of Best Practices in the United Nations System, to be drafted, circulated and reviewed at the Third Meeting of the Expert Group on International Economic and Social Classifications, to be held in 1997;

(d) Noted the need of Member States for assistance in addressing computer technology issues related to classifications;

(e) Recommended that the revised Central Product Classification (CPC) be published as Version 1.0, on the understanding that in the preface, users would be alerted to the prospect of its further improvement; and encouraged Member States to start implementing the CPC Version 1.0 and make suggestions to the Secretariat regarding future work on the revision of CPC;

(f) Emphasized the importance of developing strategies for the revision of the goods part of CPC so as to bridge the differences between all commodity nomenclatures; requested the Secretariat to seek country assistance in conducting a review of and revising the goods part of CPC; and recognized the need to continue to consult the Voorburg Group on Services Statistics and to utilize its technical expertise in the next round of revision of CPC.